

**Remarks**

Pending Claims 1-3 were rejected as anticipated or obvious in light of prior art, and Claims 4-6 were objected to as being in improper form as based on a multiple dependent claim. This latter rejection is now moot in light of the new claims. These pending Claims 1-6 have been canceled, and new Claims 7-15 are presented here.

As requested, a certified copy of the French patent application is attached.

New, formal drawings, labeled as such, are provided. Due to the difficulty in communicating with the French inventor, the drawings have not yet been revised to show the sliding block connection between the loading ramp and the cylinder rod, but preparations are being made to address this issue.

Regarding new Claims 7-15, it is not believed that any new matter has been added. However, it is requested that the Examiner make a careful search to confirm this.

As requested, the specification has been carefully revised, so that it has been clarified, per the attached labeled "Revised Specification."

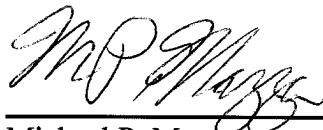
The §§ 102, 103 rejections are respectfully traversed for the reasons now presented. Neither Farrell nor Pewthers discloses or suggests the claimed recitation that "the loading platform employs a cylinder which enables movement of the loading platform over a travel distance substantially twice as large as a travel distance of a cylinder rod moving within the

cylinder....” Nor does Herrell remedy this deficiency.

Applicants note that French Patent No. 0303156 , corresponding to French Application No. 2,852,374, have now received notice from the French Patent Office that an independent claim, corresponding to a mix of original claims 1 and 4, has been allowed. Upon receipt of these papers, they will be forwarded to the Examiner.

Accordingly, pending the items Applicant still needs to provide, an allowance of pending Claims 7-15 is respectfully requested. If the next written communication is intended to be other than a notice of allowance, Applicant requests that the undersigned be contacted prior to the issuance of such communication.

Respectfully submitted,



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